

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070685

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, PEPR, CD, US

SUBJECT:MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD -- CHADIAN AMBASSADOR
CALLS ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE, MARCH 14

1. SUMMARY; DURING CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE
CHADIAN AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ASK
ABOUT US INTENTIONS REGARDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD.
MOOSE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFER ROUTE
UNFORTUNATELY REMAINED ONLY AVENUE OF US MILITARY ASSIST-
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ANCE. MOOSE SAID THAT HE DEEPLY REGRETTED THAT US COULD
NOT DO MORE TO HELP CHAD. WITH REFERENCE TO CHADIAN
MISSION TO TEHRAN, MOOSE SAID THAT US COULD DO NOTHING
FURTHER TO PERSUADE GOI TO BE RESPONSIVE. CHADIAN AMBASSA-
DOR ALSO EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S UNEASINESS WITH PICTURE
GENERATED BY US PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPICTING ATMOSPHERE
OF CLOSE US-CHADIAN COOPERATION IN NON-MILITARY SPHERES.

CHAD WAS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR SUCH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, YET WOULD APPRECIATE IF US ASSISTANCE COULD BE HANDLED MORE QUIETLY WITHOUT SURROUNDING PUBLICITY. MOOSE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THIS SINCE IT HAD BECOME A MATTER OF CONCERN FOR THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. CHADIAN AMBASSADOR TOURA GABA CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE MARCH 14 TO DISCUSS PROSPECT OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD. AF/W DESK OFFICER ATTENDED.

3. TOURA GABA SAID PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO DELIVER TWO MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT MALLOUM. FIRST OF THESE WAS TO ASK IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY CHANGES IN US ATTITUDES ABOUT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD SINCE TOURA GABA'S FEBRUARY 13 MEETING WITH MOOSE AND INTERVENING EVENTS (SUCCESSFUL REBEL OFFENSIVE AND VISIT OF CHADIAN MILITARY DELEGATION TO IRAN). TOURA GABA'S SECOND MESSAGE DEALT WITH US PROFILE IN CHAD. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT EVEN IN EVENT US COULD NOT HELP CHAD WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT, US COULD HELP CHAD BY TAKING A MORE LOW-KEYED PUBLIC POSTURE IN CHAD. HE SAID CHAD WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR US (NON-MILITARY) ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, BUT GOC WAS UNEASY WITH THE AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THEM. AMBASSADOR CONJECTURED THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF THIS PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBABLY REQUIRED UNDER US LAW, HOWEVER, GOC WOULD DEEPLY APPRECIATE IF US COULD QUIETLY CONTINUE ITS PROGRAMS WITH LESS EMPHASIS ON PUBLICITY.

4. ADDRESSING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD: MOOSE SAID THAT THERE WAS REGRETTABLY NOTHING NEW TO REPORT. GIVEN THE PRACTICAL IMPOSSIBILITIES OF EITHER GRANTS OR CASH SALES, THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS REMAINED ONLY AVENUE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD. DESPITE EFFORTS OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES, NO THIRD COUNTRY HAD BEEN LOCATED WHICH WAS INCLINED TO HELP CHAD WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR FINANCING. US HAD ENCOURAGED FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM IRAN AND REGRETTED THAT LAST VISIT BY CHADIAN DELEGATION HAS NOT PRODUCED RESULTS. MOOSE TOLD TOURA GABA THERE WAS NOTHING MORE US COULD DO FOR CHAD IN TEHRAN; IRAN DECISION PROBABLY REFLECTED GOI SENSITIVITIES TO ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CHAD AND LIBYA.

5. US PUBLIC IMAGE: MOOSE PROMISED TO TAKE THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ABOUT US PROFILE IN CHAD UNDER CONSIDERATION. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION WHICH REQUIRED

OUR ASSISTANCE BE MADE KNOWN TO THE RECIPIENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE HOST COUNTRY GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, MOOSE SAID HE WAS SENSITIVE TO GOC CONCERNS AND ANXIOUS TO ASSIST CHAD IN SUCH WAYS AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT OUR PEOPLE WOULD TAKE A CAREFUL LOOK AT THE NECESSITY AND MANNER IN WHICH PUBLIC INFORMATION WAS BEING PROMOTED IN CHAD. HE FURTHER INVITED TOURA GABA TO CONTACT US AGAIN IF PUBLICITY REMAINED A MATTER OF GOC CONCERN.

6. TOURA GABA SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO MAKE A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLEHILL ON PUBLIC IMAGE ISSUE BUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD APPRECIATE OUR EFFORTS TO MODERATE PUBLIC INFORMATION EFFORTS. HE SAID THAT THIS MATTER WAS NOT MEANT TO DETRACT FROM CHAD'S REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE.
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ANCE. CHAD WAS NOW WELL ACQUAINTED WITH DETAILS OF US LAW ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND REALIZED CONSTRAINTS FACING US. HOWEVER, HE PERSONALLY FELT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DO SOMETHING IF THERE WERE GENUINE DESIRE TO DO SO. HE ALSO CAUTIONED THAT ON-GOING NEGOTIATION EFFORTS WITH LIBYA AND CHADIAN REBELS NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH CHAD'S GENUINE NEED FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. CHAD MUST NOT IGNORE ITS SECURITY NEEDS DURING THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS.

7. MOOSE ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT WE RECOGNIZED THE ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS PRESENTED MANY DANGERS AND UNCERTAINTIES FOR THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT, AND THAT CHAD'S NEED FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE REMAINED GENUINE. MOOSE SAID THAT HE WAS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED THAT OUR JOINT EFFORTS HAD NOT RESULTED IN MORE HELP FOR CHAD. HOWEVER, US WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHAD DIPLOMATICALLY AND ASSIST IN CHAD'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. MOOSE REITERATED THAT US SUPPORTED CHAD'S EFFORTS TO SEEK A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION, AND SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW OF ANY WAYS IN WHICH US COULD HELP IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

8. FOR NDJAMENA: DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR COMMENTS ON AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ABOUT US PUBLIC PROFILE IN CHAD AND SUGGESTIONS ABOUT HOW WE MIGHT RESPOND TO CHADIAN CONCERNS. VANCE

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